

MINUTES

MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES 51st LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE ON STATE ADMINISTRATION

Call to Order: By Chairman Jan Brown, on March 1, 1989, at 9:00 a.m.

ROLL CALL

Members Present: All present

Members Excused: None

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Judy Burggraff, Secretary; Lois Menzies, Staff Researcher

Announcements/Discussion: Chairman Brown reminded the Committee of the tour of the Power-Tobin Mansion, which has been donated to the state for the Governor's mansion. The bus will leave the capitol at 11:00 a.m.

HEARING ON SB 75

Presentation and Opening Statement by Sponsor: Sen. Judy Jacobson, Senate District 38, introduced the bill. This bill, requested by the Legislative Audit Committee and the Department of Administration, requires the state employee group benefits plan to be audited every two years, rather than annually, or at the direction of the Legislative Auditor.

Testifying Proponents and Who They Represent:

Laurie Ekanger, Montana Department of Administration

Proponent Testimony:

LAURIE EKANGER, representing the Department of Administration, presented written testimony (Exhibit 1).

Testifying Opponents and Who They Represent: None

Questions From Committee Members: None

Closing by Sponsor: None

DISPOSITION OF SB 75

Motion: Rep. Campbell moved that SB 75 BE CONCURRED IN.

Discussion: None

Amendments, Discussion, and Votes: None

Recommendation and Vote: The motion CARRIED unanimously. Rep. Roth moved to place SB 75 ON THE CONSENT CALENDAR. The motion carried unanimously.

HEARING ON SB 110

Presentation and Opening Statement by Sponsor: Sen. Judy Jacobson, Senate District 38, introduced the bill. Current law requires claims for disbursements submitted to the Department of Administration to bear the signature of the authorizing officer or employee. In addition, agencies must send copies of documents supporting claims to the Department. This bill, requested by the Department of Administration, removes these requirements. This bill is effective on passage and approval and applies retroactively to claims submitted electronically to the Department on or after January 1, 1989.

Sen. Jacobson said the purpose of the bill is to put the Department of Administration on the computer system. She said the cost savings to the state include better utilization of fiscal staff time and a reduction of photocopying and mailings costs, which should save the state \$39,700 per biennium.

Testifying Proponents and Who They Represent:

Karen Munro, Administrator, Centralized Services Division, Department of Administration

Proponent Testimony:

KAREN MUNRO, from the Department of Administration, said that right now the agencies have to submit hard copies to the Department of Administration. She said that they have been working on a computer system that would allow for the reduction of one full-time employee.

Testifying Opponents and Who They Represent: None

Questions From Committee Members:

REP. CAMPBELL asked who requested the bill. Ms. Munro said that the Legislative Auditors brought it before the Department of Administration in 1985.

Closing by Sponsor: Sen. Jacobson said she has some worksheets, which would show better the costs saving that would occur. She said that the only drawback will be in the beginning when it will require the people to take a little bit more time to switch to the computer. She said it would not be to anyone's benefit to keep it the way it presently is.

Sen. Jacobson said that Rep. Cobb will carry the bill in the House.

DISPOSITION OF SB 110

Motion: Rep. Campbell moved that SB 110 BE CONCURRED IN.

Discussion: None

Amendments, Discussion, and Votes: None

Recommendation and Vote: The motion CARRIED unanimously. Rep. Spring moved to place SB 110 ON THE CONSENT CALENDAR. The motion CARRIED unanimously.

HEARING ON SB 356 AND SJR 8

Presentation and Opening Statement by Sponsor: Sen. Joseph Mazurek, Senate District 23, introduced this bill and the resolution. SB 356 revises the definition of "veteran," for the purposes of services provided by the Board of Veterans' Affairs, to include individuals who served with the First Special Service Force and the American Merchant Marine during World War II. In addition, it permits these individuals to qualify their military service for credit in the Public Employees' Retirement System. SJR 8 urges the United States Congress to grant full veterans' benefits to the Canadian First Special Service Force members now living in the United States. (Fort Harrison was the initial training site for the First Special Service Force.)

Sen. Mazurek said that the Committee would be well served to hear SB 356 and SJR 8 together as they deal with the same subject. He said he is introducing this legislation at the request of the Military Affairs Division and it will bring the state statutes in line with the federal statutes. It will grant full status to veterans who served with the Merchant Marines during oceangoing service in World War II. There were a number of Canadians that trained in Helena at Fort Harrison and served with the First Special Service Force. Many Canadian members returned to Helena and settled here after the war. Sen. Mazurek said that there are 35 Canadian First Special Service Force members still living in Montana.

SJR 8 will urge Congress to do the same thing with the First Special Service Force. He said that the bill and the resolution are largely tributary in nature.

With the passage of this bill, the Canadians that were injured in combat that served with the First Special Service Force would be able to be treated at a veterans' administration hospital.

Testifying Proponents and Who They Represent:

Hal Manson, American Legion of Montana

Herb Goodwin, First Special Service Force

John Den Herder, Department of Montana Disabled American Veterans

Proponent Testimony:

HAL MANSON, representing the American Legion of Montana, said that the Canadians serving in the Special Forces came to this area and have been good citizens; they have really helped the area. He said that the Canadians fought side-by-side with the Americans in the war and many of them suffered injuries. The Special Service Forces were ordered into combat areas where other people were not allowed to go. He said that "the only difference was a matter of citizenship."

HERB GOODWIN, representing The First Special Service Force, served with the force from August of 1942 through 1944. He became a citizen of the United States when he married an East Helena girl. He has lived in the Helena area since 1945. He said he was in support of this legislation.

JOHN DEN HERDER, Montana Department of Disabled Veterans, said that he supports this bill and resolution. He said he knows several of the men who served in the Special Services and also some of the Merchant Marines that had their ships blown out of the water.

Testifying Opponents and Who They Represent: None

Questions From Committee Members:

REP. ROTH asked if the Canadian veterans receive any benefits from Canada. Mr. Goodwin said, "No, sir. When I requested an exit permit from Canada that was finished." REP. ROTH questioned if the bill would only cover American citizens. He was told that the intent of the bill is to cover the Special Service veterans, which would be anyone that served in that force.

Closing by Sponsor: Sen. Mazurek thanked the Committee and the people that came to testify. He said that Rep. O'Keefe will carry SB 356 and Rep. Gervais will carry SJR 8 in the House.

DISPOSITION OF SB 356

Motion: Rep. O'Connell moved that SB 356 BE CONCURRED IN.

Discussion: None

Amendments, Discussion, and Votes: REP. ROTH moved to amend the bill so that only a United States citizen would be covered included.

REP. WHALEN said he didn't think that would be necessary because it was clear in the discussion of that bill that was its intent.

REP. ROTH withdrew the motion.

Recommendation and Vote: The motion CARRIED unanimously.

DISPOSITION OF SJR 8

Motion: Rep. Moore moved that SJR 8 BE CONCURRED IN.

Discussion: None

Amendments, Discussion, and Votes: None

Recommendation and Vote: The motion CARRIED unanimously.

HEARING ON SB 188

Presentation and Opening Statement by Sponsor: Sen. Paul Rapp-Svrcek, Senate District 26, introduced the bill at the request of the Secretary of State's Office. This bill permits annual reports of corporations (i.e., domestic, foreign, and nonprofit corporations sole) to submit their annual reports in a computerized format prescribed the Secretary of State.

Sen. Rapp-Svrcek said that the Secretary of State's Office will receive 30,000 annual report forms by April 15, of each year. This bill would lay the ground work for the filing of a corporation's annual report on a computer disk, which they could then mail to the Secretary of State's Office, which would save a lot of time. He said that this change could be made without any fiscal impact to the state. The reports could also be filed by using a computer modem hookup. This would save Montana corporations some money. This bill would

allow the Secretary of State's Office to reduce their staff by two to three FTE's in the coming years. He also said that nothing would require a corporation to use the computer, and they would not be penalized if they chose to not use the computer.

Testifying Proponents and Who They Represent:

Doug Mitchell, Secretary of State's Office

Proponent Testimony:

DOUG MITCHELL, representing the Secretary of State's Office, said that 30,000 annual reports are sent out at the beginning of each year. He said that between January 28 and April 15, they have to process 180 reports a day, which is very difficult to do. He said that this bill is a good way to look at new technology so that the larger businesses would be able to turn in their reports with the aid of a computer.

Testifying Opponents and Who They Represent: None

Opponent Testimony: None

Questions From Committee Members: None

Closing by Sponsor: Sen. Rapp-Svrcek requested the Committee to concur on the bill. Rep. O'Keefe will carry this bill in the House.

DISPOSITION OF SB 114

Hearing Date: February 28, 1989

Motion: REP. O'CONNELL moved SB 114 BE NOT CONCURRED IN.

Discussion: Chairman Brown read the following telegram from Jeanette S. Buchanan-Tawney, RDH, and member of the Montana Board of Dentistry: "Please note I support Senate Bill 114 to restore a fifth dentist to the Board of Dentistry without amendment."

REP. COCCHIARELLA said, "I have some concerns about her representing this particular group. She recently married a dentist on the Board. She has not worked as a dental hygienist for quite some time. At this point in time, we either need to kill this bill or make sure that the hygienists are fairly represented."

REP. SPRING said that he had visited with some dental hygienists. They told him that Jeanette Buchanan's term is to terminate within six weeks, and she is about through as a leader.

REP. WESTLAKE said that not all of the dentists in the state belong to the Dental Association. He had talked to several dentists that did not belong, and they had told him that they are not sympathetic with this legislation.

REP. CAMPBELL said that the 250 hygienists pay more proportionately to support the Board than the dentists. He said, "This is not fair."

Amendments, Discussion, and Votes: REP. MOORE moved to amend the bill on page 1, lines 12 and 13 to provide for 4 dentists, 1 denturist and two dental hygienists.

Lois Menzies said that would change the intent of the bill so the Committee could not do that.

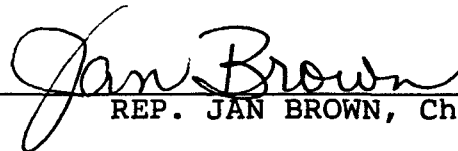
REP. MOORE withdrew her motion.

REP. ROTH said that the dentists indicated that the reason for the fifth dentist was to assist with the workload. They are required to have only one dental member of the Board at two of the four meetings each year. This would mean one dentist would have to attend the meetings for one week every other year.

Recommendation and Vote: REP. O'CONNELL made a substitute motion to TABLE THE BILL. A roll call vote was taken. The motion CARRIED 15 - 3.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment At: 9:46 a.m.



REP. JAN BROWN, Chairman

JB/jb

4814.min

DAILY ROLL CALL

STATE ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

51th LEGISLATIVE SESSION -- 1989

Date March 1st, 1989

NAME	PRESENT	ABSENT	EXCUSED
Rep. Jan Brown, Chairman	✓		
Rep. Helen O'Connell, Vice Ch.	✓		
Rep. Vicki Cocchiarella	✓		
Rep. Ervin Davis	✓		
Rep. Floyd "Bob" Gervais	✓		
Rep. Janet Moore	✓		
Rep. Angela Russell	✓		
Rep. Carolyn Squires	✓		
Rep. Vernon Westlake	✓		
Rep. Timothy Whalen	✓		
Rep. Bud Campbell	✓		
Rep. Duane Compton	✓		
Rep. Roger DeBruycker	✓		
Rep. Harriet Hayne	✓		
Rep. Richard Nelson	✓		
Rep. John Phillips	✓		
Rep. Rande Roth	✓		
Rep. Wilbur Spring, Jr.	✓		

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT

March 1, 1989

Page 1 of 1

Mr. Speaker: We, the committee on State Administration report that SENATE BILL 75 (blue reference copy) be concurred in and that it be placed on the CONSENT CALENDAR.

Signed: _____

Jan Brown
Jan Brown, Chairman

[REP. COBB WILL CARRY THIS BILL ON THE HOUSE FLOOR]

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT

March 1, 1989

Page 1 of 1

Mr. Speaker: We, the committee on State Administration report that SENATE BILL 110 (blue reference copy) be concurred in and that it be placed on the CONSENT CALENDAR.

Signed: _____

Jan Brown
Jan Brown, Chairman

[REP. COBB WILL CARRY THIS BILL ON THE HOUSE FLOOR]

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT

3/1/89
12:05 PM
jad
March 1, 1989

Page 1 of 1

Mr. Speaker: We, the committee on State Administration report
that SENATE BILL 356 (blue reference copy) be concurred in .

Signed: _____

Jan Brown
Jan Brown, Chairman

[REP. O'KEEFE WILL CARRY THIS BILL ON THE HOUSE FLOOR]

2/01/89
12:05 PM
ja

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT

March 1, 1989

Page 1 of 1

Mr. Speaker: We, the committee on State Administration report that SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 8 (blue reference copy) be concurred in.

Signed: _____

Jan Brown
Jan Brown, Chairman

[REP. GERVAIS WILL CARRY THIS BILL ON THE HOUSE FLOOR]

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT

March 1, 1989

Page 1 of 1

Mr. Speaker: We, the committee on State Administration report
that SENATE BILL 188 (blue reference copy) be concurred in .

Signed: Jan Brown
Jan Brown, Chairman

[REP. O'KEEFE WILL CARRY THIS BILL ON THE HOUSE FLOOR]

Department of Administration

TESTIMONY IN FAVOR OF SB 75

I. PURPOSE OF THE ACT

This bill amends the requirements for an annual audit of the state employee group benefit plan to an audit every two years covering the two year period since the last audit to be consistent with the Legislative Audit Act.

II. WHY CHANGE FROM AN ANNUAL TO A BIENNIAL AUDIT?

The expense of a second audit every biennium will be saved (an approximate biennial savings of \$20,000).

A biennial audit is the standard audit frequency required for audits of most state agencies by the Legislative Auditor in the Legislative Audit Act, Section 5-13-304 (1), M.C.A.

The change is supported by the State Employee Group Benefits Advisory Council established by Section 2-15-1016, M.C.A.

The change is supported by the Legislative Audit Committee.

III. SUMMARY

This bill is proposed as a cost-saving, efficiency measure.

For more information call Laurie Ekanger or Rod Sundsted, State Personnel Division, 444-3871.

VISITORS' REGISTER

STATE ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

BILL NO. SB 75

DATE March 1, 1989

SPONSOR SEN. JACOBSON

[illegible]

IF YOU CARE TO WRITE COMMENTS, ASK SECRETARY FOR WITNESS STATEMENT FORM.

PLEASE LEAVE PREPARED STATEMENT WITH SECRETARY.

VISITORS' REGISTER
STATE ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

BILL NO. SB 110

DATE March 1, 1989

SPONSOR SEN. JACOBSON

NAME (please print)	REPRESENTING	SUPPORT	OPPOSE
<i>KAREN MANRO</i>	<i>Dept. of Admin.</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

IF YOU CARE TO WRITE COMMENTS, ASK SECRETARY FOR WITNESS STATEMENT FORM.

PLEASE LEAVE PREPARED STATEMENT WITH SECRETARY.

VISITORS' REGISTER

STATE ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

BILL NO. SB 356

DATE March 1, 1989

SPONSOR SEN. MAZUREK

NAME (please print)	REPRESENTING	SUPPORT	OPPOSE
HAL MARSON	AMERICAN LEGION	X	
John Dee Herder	Dep of MT DAV	X	
Glenn O. Poston	United Veterans Com. of MT	X	
Frank C. Kunkelboer	MUAD		
Art Gordon	FSSF	X	
Bob Durfee	FSSF	X	

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PLEASE LEAVE PREPARED STATEMENT WITH SECRETARY.

VISITORS' REGISTER

STATE ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

BILL NO. SJR 8DATE March 1, 1989SPONSOR SEN. MAZUREK

NAME (please print)	REPRESENTING	SUPPORT	OPPOSE
HAL MANSON	AMERICAN LEGION	X	
Jan DeW Herder	Dept of MT DAY	X	
George O. Foster	United Veterans Comm. of MT.	X	
Frank L. Gombellara	MVAD		
Hert Goodwin	FSSF	X	
Bob Durkee	FSSF	X	

IF YOU CARE TO WRITE COMMENTS, ASK SECRETARY FOR WITNESS STATEMENT FORM.

PLEASE LEAVE PREPARED STATEMENT WITH SECRETARY.

VISITORS' REGISTER

STATE ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

BILL NO. SB 188

DATE March 1, 1989

SPONSOR SEN. RAPP-SVRCEK

[illegible]

IF YOU CARE TO WRITE COMMENTS, ASK SECRETARY FOR WITNESS STATEMENT FORM.

PLEASE LEAVE PREPARED STATEMENT WITH SECRETARY.

ROLL CALL VOTE

STATE ADMINISTRATION

COMMITTEE

DATE 3-01-89 BILL NO. SB 114 NUMBER 1

NAME	AYE	NAY
Jan Brown	✓	
Bud Campbell		✓
Vicki Cocchiarella	✓	
Duane Compton	✓	
Ervin Davis	✓	
Roger DeBruycker	✓	
Floyd "Bob" Gervais	✓	
Harriet Hayne	✓	
Janet Moore	✓	
Richard Nelson	✓	
Helen O'Connell	✓	
John Phillips		✓
Rande Roth	✓	
Angela Russell	✓	
Wilbur Spring, Jr.	✓	
Carolyn Squires	✓	
Vernon Westlake	✓	
Timothy Whalen		✓

TALLY

15 3

Judy Burruss
Secretary

Jan Brown
Chairman

MOTION: TO TABLE